

LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS

Library offers ideas for recycling through crafts

Yesterday 10:00 p.m.

The recycling spots around town get a lot of use, with loads of cardboard, paper and plastic dropped off daily. Other options exist, however, for those who want to see fewer materials end up in a landfill.

The Abilene Public Library has many titles that provide a variety of creative options to help you recycle in a crafty way.

"Wise Craft," by Blair Stocker, features projects that help you give new life to fabric scraps or old plates. In a similar vein is John Murphy's "Closet Monsters: Stitch Creatures You'll Love From Clothing You Don't." Murphy shows you how to use clothing destined for the junk pile to sew adorable little stuffed monsters you will be happy to keep around or give as a gift.

Personalized gifts also can be created using "Trash-to-Treasure Papermaking" by Arnold Grummer. This innovative guide takes such nuisance items as old phone books and junk mail and transforms them into invitations, ornaments and more.

The Leisure Arts title "The Big Green Book of Recycled Crafts" offers more than 100 projects that use glass, paper, plastic and other materials that might normally end up in a landfill.

Your garden is another place to showcase reclaimed projects.

"Salvage Style for the Garden: Simple Outdoor Projects Using Reclaimed Treasures," by Marcianne Miller, has projects for everything from birdbaths to steppingstones. Susan Guagliumi's "Handmade for the Garden: 75 Ingenious Ways to Enhance Your Outdoor Space with DIY Tools, Pots, Supports, Embellishments, and More" shows how to repurpose materials to creatively personalize an outdoor space.

Those who want to recycle but are not really interested in keeping all those repurposed items around, may want to read "Recycling for Pleasure and Profit" by Chris Toombs. This talented artisan shares how to select viable items and revamp them for resale. Who knows, maybe all that chair on the side of the road needs is a little TLC.

These days, there are so many ways to be more environmentally conscious, meaning potentially fewer trips to recycling centers and more time creating fun crafts from what to some people is essentially trash.

Allow the Abilene Public Library to help you achieve as small a footprint as possible through our many titles that demonstrate just how easy and fun recycling in a crafty way can be.

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